

A new urban identity through the industrial landscape

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MoMoWo

Women · Architecture & Design Itineraries across Europe

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TURIN



WOMEN'S CREATIVITY SINCE
THE MODERN MOVEMENT

A New Urban Identity through the Industrial Landscape

This itinerary stretches south of the city centre taking in areas that have undergone urban renovations.

The Land Use Plan (1987–95) foresaw the gradual covering up of the railway lines that divided the city together with intensive renovation works in the surroundings ex-industrial areas. The resulting axis, also known as *Spina Centrale*, includes four districts from south to north named *Spina 1, 2, 3 and 4*. Starting from the [Thermal Power District Heating Plant \(1\)](#) visitors will enter the *Spina 1* area, developed along Corso Mediterraneo. The former railway repair yards (*Officine Grandi Riparazioni* - OGR) are located along this wide boulevard, which is characterised by cycle paths, walkways and green areas. A [Climbing Sports Centre \(2\)](#) (2008) was built in Via Paolo Braccini to accommodate the indoor climbing-wall, previously located in the *Palavela* from the 1980s to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

Facing Corso Mediterraneo, [Santa Teresa di Gesù Bambino Church and its Parish Complex \(3\)](#) is located on the edge of the residential *Crocetta* district. In front of the church, the *Igloo* created by Mario Merz in 2002 marks the boulevard's separation into two avenues. Taking the left-hand avenue, visitors will walk past a large residential and shopping block designed by Jean Nouvel (2001–09) on the site that previously hosted the *Materferro* railway materials factory.

Across Largo Orbassano, the avenue turns and runs along Clessidra park to Corso Filippo Turati. Here are some ex industrial buildings that were renovated in 2010 to host the ["Toolbox" - Torino Office Lab and Co-working Space \(4\)](#).

Crossing the railway, visitors will reach the *Torino Esposizioni* exhibition complex, built between 1936 and 1938 by Ettore Sottsass sr. and extended two times by Pier Luigi Nervi (1968, 1950). [Residence Du Parc \(5, now Duparc Contemporary Suites\)](#) apartment hotel is located just alongside *Torino Esposizioni* in a stretch of Massimo d'Azeglio boulevard that sow its urban

renewal in the 1950s. At the time of its construction, the apartment hotel was considered as the most suitable to host the cosmopolitan exhibitors of the adjacent exhibition centre.

Reaching Via Nizza and crossing Piazza Giosuè Carducci, visitors will enter the *Lingotto* neighbourhood. This area used to be a farming suburb of the city that was significantly transformed from the end of the 19th century onwards, during the increasing industrialisation process of the city. The opening of the *Lingotto* FIAT car plant (1923) finally defined the spatial organisation of this industrial district. The compounds were located on the west side of Via Nizza, and a large number of working-class houses were built on the east side. From the second half of the 1980s the area underwent intensive renovation work due to the closure of the factories. FIAT Lingotto was turned into a multifunctional centre (1983), the former *Pastificio Italiano* became the [AC Hotel \(6\)](#) (2003–05) and the former *Vermouth Carpano* was reused to house the [Eataly - Food and Wine Centre \(7\)](#) (2004–07).

Turning left into Corso Eusebio Giambone, visitors will reach the urban area selected in 1961 to host "Italia '61", the exhibition complex to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the unification of Italy. Among the buildings erected for this event, the [Palavela - Sports Centre for Figure-Skating and Short Track \(8\)](#) stood out for its innovative design. The building was recently transformed by Gae Aulenti and reused for the 2006 Winter Olympics. Shortly after the Palavela, visitors will reach the *Palazzo del Lavoro*, a Pier Luigi Nervi's masterwork that is currently abandoned.

When visitors have crossed Corso Pietro Maroncelli, they will be in an ex-industrial were the [Fonderie Limone - Centre of Research on Theatrical Arts \(9\)](#) are. This complex is located in a pleasant leafy area on the banks of the Sangone river, facing the hills of Turin. [C.F., A.S.](#)

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